Partnership (PPP) mode in Educationally Backward Blocks in Tamil Nadu to prevent the drop in secondary stage enrolment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Government has decided to set up 6,000 Model Schools at the Block level, at the rate of one school per block, as benchmarks of excellence. The first phase of the programme to establish 2,500 schools in educationally backward blocks (EBBs) through State Government was launched in November, 2008.

(b) Under the scheme, each block in Tamil Nadu can have a Model School. The actual number to be established during the Eleventh Plan depends on the viable proposals from State Government of Tamil Nadu. There is a Plan allocation of Rs. 12750 crore for the scheme to be implemented throughout the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Education problems in Assam

3439. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are a number of Lower Primary, Middle and High Schools in Assam which are recognized by the State Government and the buildings of which are in deplorable conditions, where the teaching and other staff are doing their job with a meagre amount;

(b) whether Government has received any such proposal from the State Government of Assam to provide proper infrastructure and assistance to such Government recognized schools;

(c) whether Government would take initiative to solve such age old problem of education in the State or conduct an enquiry about such problem; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per Framework for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme, schools sanctioned under SSA alone are provided assistance for civil infrastructure, etc. Government aided schools are not entitled to any civil infrastructure support under SSA programme. However, SSA provides financial support for in service training of teachers to ensure that quality education is transacted in schools.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Employment opportunities

†3440. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of unemployed students in the country holding the MBBS and engineering degrees, State-wise; and

(b) the details of arrangements being made by Government to provide employment to these unemployed students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) This Ministry and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare do not centrally maintain information regarding the number of unemployed students.

(b) This Department has started a scheme of Finishing School for enhancing Information Technology and Communications skills of unemployed engineering graduates. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare does not have any scheme to provide employment to these unemployed students.

Replacing marks with grades as evaluation

3441. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is planning for setting up of a single school board and making Class X board exam as optional as a part of its 100-days plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry is keen to introduce a system to replace marks with grades in classes IX and X; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for setting up of a single school board in the country. A proposal to make Class 10 Examination conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education) CBSE) optional for students continuing in the same school to the higher secondary stage, is under consideration of CBSE.

(c) and (d) There is a proposal with CBSE to introduce grades in place of marks in Class 10 Examination conducted by CBSE.

Comparative performance of Government and private schools

†3442. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an assessment of performance of Government and private schools with regard to CBSE exams was done by Government;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.